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FRANK A. MUNSEY.

The Times is served in the city of Washington and District of Columbia by newboys, who deliver and collect for the paper on their own account at the rate of 4 cents a week for the Evening and 5 cents a copy for the Sunday edition.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1907.

The Obvious.

How the average man or woman either for that matter hates the person who is always springing the obvious as if it were something new and startling! It is not because of any objection to the obvious. Far from it. We all love the obvious. We revel in it. It is the common coin of literature and language. But we like to have it brought to notice calmly and quietly. We like to have it introduced with an "of course" and an "as you well know," thus soothing our vanity by the admission that we are ordinarily intelligent and experienced.

The most obvious of all things is the weather, yet there is no more eternal, more universal, or more interesting topic. We speak of it when first we greet a friend at the dawn of the busy day. We exchange prophecies about it with our last glance at the skies at night. We exchange opinions about it at banquet and ball. We all have our own ideas as to the weather most suitable for this occasion or for that, which weather is most seasonable, which the most health-giving, which the most pleasurable. Most obvious of all things about this most obvious of subjects, however, is the fact that not by thinking, or by planning, or by any change in our mode of living, can we direct or even influence the weather. It blows as it will, and it snows as it pleases. It has always done so, and it always will, and equally always will we rail against it when it fails to come up to our expectations.

Why not admit the obviousness of it all then, and with good old Benjamin F. Johnson of Boone, the gentle forerunner of the gentle Riley, say that when it rains,

Why, rain's my choice.

Politics ex Machina.

The perfection of the political machine was reached in 1896 by Chairman Hanna. Hanna regarded a big political enterprise as he did any other big scheme. It took money to run it, and he made politics quite as much a financial as a sentimental affair. There has been progressive revision of feeling against this sort of politics ever since, and it seems certain that the use of money in next year's campaign will be at least less bold and shameless than it has been in some other years. The "interests," however, are very earnest in their desire to elect their sort of a President, and it will not do to assume that the people are to be given opportunity to make up their own minds without help from higher up.

It is a healthy sign that one candidate for whom there is a powerful and widespread demand, not only has no organization, but seemingly is determined not to permit one to be made for him. It is suspected that Governor Hughes is ahead of the times, and that unless he changes his attitude and permits his friends to play the game as others play it, he will have small chance in the counting of delegates. There is no good reason why organization should not be effected in politics as in anything else. There is a wide difference between organization and corruption. The one does not imply the other, albeit they have been too much in association.

Secretary Taft hasn't much of an organization. Maybe he will get a better one before long. As matters stand now in this Republican Presidential race, it seems hardly unfair to say that the candidate who soonest effects a real, old-fashioned working organization and puts it at work is likely to put himself at the front in the race. We suspect that the Taft forces will do that presently, and that under the guidance of that premier of all our politicians, President Roosevelt, the Taft propaganda will follow up the advantage recently accrued to it.

The Soldier and His Pay.

Thirteen dollars a month, less than 50 cents a day, is the wage Uncle Sam pays the men who enlist under his flag in these piping times of peace. Unless war comes and gives them an opportunity to display their bravery and patriotism, and win the plaudits of their countrymen, the enlisted men in the army are doomed to a life of dreary routine, endless drills, marches that lead to nowhere, and hard labor but little, if any, above that of menials.

In order to fit themselves to sacrifice their lives, if need be, for their country and to earn their \$13 a month, they surrender all personal liberty, all the joys of home and family. They are ever at the beck and call of the man above them, and sometimes the victim of his whim or his attack of indigestion. Injustice, abuse, and imposition may be their lot. They have no choice but to obey in silence. Ever planning and drilling for battle, their only light is against moral, mental, and physical stagnation, and that sickness of the very soul—nostalgia.

For the enlisted man in the navy life presents a brighter side. For him there is always action. There is the cruise to other lands and seas. The scenery often shifts. Tomorrow the islands of the southern seas may be his destination. He jollifies on board and he celebrates ashore. Desertions are few and far between, compared with the record of the army. Romance and glory speak in the very name of a battleship. The announcement of a cruise is like a call to arms. When the formation of the armada for the Pacific was proclaimed enlistments increased a third. Enlistments in the army know only decrease. The increase is found in desertions.

There is sound reason then back of the effort of the War Department to obtain a higher wage for the enlisted man in the army. Not only is his actual labor entitled to better remuneration, but his deprivations and sacrifices should win him a higher recompense. But not even greater pay will be found sufficient to fill the ranks. There must be a lightening of his load and a brightening of his life if we would gain the best material for defenders of the home and nation.

The Shame of the District.

It is seldom that even the most hardened criminal or the most callous cynic will be found guilty of brutality toward a child, yet the District of Columbia, the seat of a government that boasts of its catholic charity and its broad humanitarianism, is arraigned for its inhumanity toward the insane, who are more helpless than children. Drs. White, Hickling and Shute, men whose education, training, and experience, and whose personal familiarity with District conditions qualifies them to speak with authority, declare, as announced in The Times yesterday, that the state of affairs with reference to the insane as it exists today in this jurisdiction is disgraceful, to say the least.

Our insane, they report, are crowded into small quarters, where they can have but little in the way of treatment, and those quarters for the innocent, for those guiltless of any crime against man or sin against God, are "within the shadow of the workhouse and jail." Worse than that, twenty-five persons annually, who are merely suspected of insanity, are jailed until an examination determines their condition of mind.

But little is needed to correct this appalling condition of affairs. These men, who form a committee representing the Society of Nervous and Mental Diseases, declare these things to be urgent:

Revision of lunacy legislation. Passage of inebriate act. Creation of special pavilion for care and treatment of cases of mental disorder.

Utilization of quarters in almshouse after erection of pavilion for care of inebriates, and insane jail prisoners under indictment. Appropriation of \$3,000 to equip Washington Asylum Hospital for treatment of insane and suspects.

No appeal in behalf of these recommendations can be stronger than the bald statement of the facts as given by this committee.

Britain in the Pacific.

It is announced that the British admiralty is going to establish a new squadron in the Pacific—the Pacific squadron—probably with headquarters at Esquimaux. It will be composed of vessels of the "county class," that is, those named after the English counties, and will be in tonnage and force rather insignificant compared to the armada which is on the way from the American Atlantic seaboard to the South Sea.

None the less, the establishment of this new division of the British sea power is not without significance. Just as the nations are bound to see meaning in the dispatch of a great armament to the Pacific by this country at a time when Japan has suddenly risen to distinction and prestige in that ocean, so they will surely recognize the formation of this new fleet as the answer which Japan's ally makes to the pretensions of this nation.

This game of modern diplomacy has no parallel so good as that of the game of chess, with its "check" and "checkmate." The United States administered its "check" to Japan when it sent its fleet to the Pacific. Japan said nothing; her ally now announces the formation of a naval organization which in effect

is the "checkmate" of Japan to this country.

But the truth is that war is getting to be an obsolete game. We don't play it that way nowadays. It is well enough to bemoan that in these materialistic times the sordid question of money determines whether there shall or shall not be war. But the question of money is the question of whether we can afford it, and no nation can ever afford it. War means not merely money—it means lives and widowhood, and orphanage, and sorrow, and gnawing hunger, and blood, and curses, and hell, and damnation. War is impossible just in proportion as the world rises to a sense of its social obligations. That is why there will be no war between the United States and Japan. There are no two nations in which the sense of social obligation has become so acute. Perhaps it will do no harm that Britain has formed a new squadron in the Pacific. It may restrain some hotheads. But it was not necessary.

Editor Ular, of Paris, says the American woman is a flirt and a hypocrite, and a goose, but has a very fine back. That will be about all he will ever see of the American woman, but unless he is a little more careful in his talk from now on he will be apt to feel the boot of some uncouth American man.

It was but natural for that Colorado jury of women to decide against the woman defendant.

Three hundred dollars is what a New York woman asks in order to start a \$100,000,000 movement. It will be mighty hard to raise the \$300,000,000, but with Christmas right on our hands, but we are in favor of anything that will move \$100,000,000 this way.

Former Senator Burton of Kansas, who is now out of jail, is also out for Bryan.

On the same day that it is reported King Leopold needs a guardian it is announced that he got the better of Thomas F. Ryan in that Congo deal. There's a mistake here somewhere.

Mr. Loeb is still doing it all. New York says it was he who killed the Hughes boom.

There is nothing even the most dotting father loses interest in more quickly than the drum he gives his young son for Christmas.

Baltimore has taken its lid off and is shouting "Come on, fellows!" to the whole drought-stricken South. Business is business.

Nothing is safe in Pittsburgh. A sermon was stolen from one of the churches there Saturday night.

Northern Prohibitionists will be shocked to learn that there will be nearly 5,000 gineries in Georgia even after the prohibition law goes into effect. Let them quiet their fears. These gineries don't produce gin, but cotton.

There is a bumper buckwheat crop and this has robbed the panic of some of its terrors.

It might be money in Uncle Sam's pocket to pay some Congressmen \$7,500 a year to stay at home.

Nothing was left in that broken bank in Attleboro, Mass., but the furniture. Strange it should have been overlooked.

"The Mayor's Wife's Social Rights" promises to become the predominant issue in Philadelphia politics. Dash it all, why can't Washington have some fun like this once in a while?

"Ton for not a gun for gun" statements are not a "fact for fact" answer to criticisms of our battalions.

Santa Claus seems to have busted the money trust; if the crowded condition of the stores is any indication.

Standard Oil is still hoarding that \$29,400,000 fine.

POOR PIXIES.

The pixies pranced
When it was spring,
And gaily danced
In mystic ring.
From every hill and nightly rove
To hold their revels in the grove.

The poet strayed
When summer came
To where they played
Their merry game.
And dearly did the poet love
To watch the pixies in the grove.

Now fall is here,
The nights are cold;
The leaves are aere,
And bare the wood.
The poet sits beside his stove,
The pixies shiver in the grove.

—Houston Post.

MAYOR FOUR FEET SIX
WEDS GIRL EVEN SHORTER

MOUND VALLEY, Kan., Dec. 23.—Frank E. West, an expert mechanic, who has served a term as mayor of this city, has brought to this place his bride, who is then shorter than the groom. Mr. West is four feet six inches tall and weighs ninety-nine pounds. His wife weighs eighty-nine pounds and is four feet four inches tall. Before her marriage Mrs. West was Miss Nannie Patterson, of Bonita, Texas. They were married there last week. Their acquaintance was made through mutual friends who had observed their nearness in size. Each is thirty-five years of age.

DAVID H. TOWER DEAD;
GREAT PAPER MAKER

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 23.—David Horatio Tower, one of the greatest paper manufacturers in the world, is dead at his home in Dalton, aged seventy-five years.

"MAN AND HIS BODIES."

A lecture on "Man and His Bodies" was delivered yesterday at Pythian Temple, under the auspices of the Capital City Branch, Theosophical Society, by Mrs. Florence S. Duffie, an officer of the branch. The lecturer explained the difference between man and his bodies, the man being the continuing entity, the "I" that passes from life to life.

COAL PILES UP AT PIERS.

READING, Pa., Dec. 23.—The Reading Company has about 7,000 cars of bituminous and anthracite coal side-tracked at Philadelphia. Coal at Port Richmond cannot be transported owing to a lack of vessels.

WANTED—MANAGERS
FOR CANDIDATES

Some Have Booms—No
Leaders; or Leaders—No
Booms.

La Follette's Strength in
Last Campaign Cause
of Uneasiness.

The two leading candidates for the Republican Presidential nomination have real booms, but neither has a real management. The rest of the candidates have something like managements, but no effective booms. Taft's management has, by common consent, done him more harm than good in the last few months. Hughes has no management, and seemingly doesn't want one. Nobody seems justified in speaking of him. The governor is apparently determined to let public opinion do its own accelerating, if any is done. Unless someone takes hold and makes a machine to handle the governor's case, without authority or conference with the man at Albany, there seems little chance of any fight being made for him in the ordinary way.

Strength Grows.

Public opinion thus far has grown strongly favorable to the governor in many sections of the country. It needs to be precipitated into delegations, and that precipitation has never been very successfully achieved in this country without something of an organization. It will be a new and remarkable accomplishment if unorganized and undirected public opinion makes a Presidential nomination; but nowadays most unusual things often happen in politics.

Fairbanks probably has the most effective political organization now that the Cortelyou movement is in retirement. Cannon has a power in Illinois, and in his great personal following in the House. The Knox boom has the support of the Pennsylvania machine and of the powerful interests which made him Senator. It has a most capable New England division commander in Senator Crane of Massachusetts. The people in Wisconsin have organized and are doing a good deal more work throughout the State than they have generally realized. They are likely to turn some tricks presently that will cause surprise in circles in which it is commonly assumed that La Follette can't be made a serious factor in the game. La Follette will have a solid Wisconsin delegation, and it is confidently claimed that he will have more votes outside that State than any other candidate.

From all parts of the country come surprising statements of the popular interest in his behalf. The Chicago Tribune poll some weeks ago showed La Follette near the top despite that his name was not printed on the ballots and had to be written in. Following this was the recent poll in New York, in which again La Follette turned up with a strength that nobody had suspected. He is not a politician to blink victory.

La Follette Reformer.

La Follette is something of a reformer himself, but he isn't of the Hughes kind, when it comes to practical politics. If there is a more practical politician extant than La Follette he would like to see a picture of the man up in Wisconsin. La Follette's game is the game that is played without money and without the big interests which ordinarily make up the campaign chest. He has played it mightily successfully in Wisconsin, as Hughes has played his game exceedingly well in New York. It remains to be seen whether either of these men can do the same thing on a national scale and get results.

The clearing house association met yesterday, and after a thorough investigation, reported that it was inadvisable to render the Neal Bank such assistance as it had asked. Loans were in such a condition that they could not readily be converted into cash. Heavy loans by the bank, it is said, on pyrites lands at Puyton, Ala., and Cripple land investments, was largely responsible for the suspension. President Thornton has issued no further statement, except to say that he believed every depositor would be paid in full, adding, however, that it would, of course, take time to effect this.

The difficulties of the bank, it is claimed, were the result of rumors started some days ago, which questioned the solvency of the bank. A number of depositors began to withdraw their deposits or to transfer them to other banks.

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'POSSUM DINNER GIVEN
OFFICIALS OF SOUTHERN

"Uncle Phil," whose real name is Anthony Phillips and who has become famous and beloved among the employees of the Southern railway by his work as a porter at the offices of the road in this city, gave a "possum dinner" to some of the officials of the road yesterday afternoon at his little home, 414 Twentieth street north-west. The "possum" was fine. There were several possums, and they had all been frozen before they were cooked, the freezing process being intended to help their flavor. The "possums" were done to a crisp and brown like the leaves on the trees in autumn. They were as fine as when "Uncle Phil" used to prepare them for the "possum" dinners given by Capt. W. H. Green, at one time general manager of the Southern. About twenty-five or thirty of the officials enjoyed Uncle Phil's hospitality.

Point Where Bodies Lie
Reached in Coal Mine

RESCUER IN DARK MINE.

Poisonous Gases Compel Wearing of Helmets and Carrying of Oxygen Tanks.

Corpses Show Death Came
as Men Kneel in
Prayer.

SAVOES CREEK, Pa., Dec. 23.—Fifty-five bodies have been taken thus far from the wrecked Darr mine. Eighteen were taken out today. The searchers have finally passed the "new entry," and are now in the part of the mine where most of the men were at work at the moment of the blow. It is believed many corpses will be found in the next few hours.

Numbers of the victims are found in attitudes of prayer. Evidently death was not instantaneous, and they had time to throw themselves on their knees and raise their hands before they expired.

Fully half the corpses were mutilated

beyond identification, and will go to unmarked graves. In the depths of the mine twenty more bodies are loaded on cars to be removed. Many of them are fragments of rotten flesh, broken bones, and burned clothing.

The mine has been entirely explored, the rescuers having penetrated 2,000 feet down the right dip, and are now working back through the entries to the left. By tomorrow every foot of the shattered workings will have been explored. Prompt measures for the temporary relief of the needy and destitute are now being taken by the Pittsburgh Coal Company and all who apply for aid are assured that assistance will instantly be given them.

Unlimited credit awaits them at the company store and provisions will be furnished freely. Car loads of supplies have been rushed here today from Pittsburgh and Connelville, but they do not mean relief committee of fifteen will be selected, composed of a company of officials, miners, and citizens named by Governor Stuart.

RAILROAD LEGISLATION
BLOCKED IN CONGRESS

Congress will have a hard time of it before the session is closed, escaping the subject of additional railroad legislation. The long session before a Presidential election is always an unsatisfactory time to try to get important measures enacted and the Republican leaders in House and Senate have resolved on a program of doing as little as possible. They are not going to permit new legislation of importance on matters affecting the railroads and corporations if they can help it, and they will make what will no doubt be an influential use of the argument that this is not a good time, from the standpoint of business conditions, to deal with these subjects. It is more than an even chance that in the end they will have their way, but they will have to club down the agitation in relentless fashion to do it.

Laws Unsatisfactory.

Through letters, resolutions of commercial bodies and otherwise, members of Congress are being made aware there is a lot of dissatisfaction with the operations of the interstate commerce laws on the part of shippers and business men. The rate law as it is being interpreted and enforced by the Interstate Commerce Commission is coming a long way from meeting the wishes of shippers. Congress is hearing the grumbling and members of that body are doing a good deal of grumbling in the operations of the law as described in complaints of their constituents. Pressure for a strengthening of the law relates principally to the subject of legislation to require roads to furnish cars to shippers. The subject of freight rates, as has been done in England, is also finding a great deal of

support among large shipping and business interests.

Work for Sentiment.

Such important organizations of business men as the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, the Southwestern Cattle Growers' Association, and the National Livestock Association have undertaken to arouse sentiment in an organized way for legislation on the subject of furnishing cars to shippers. They have adopted resolutions on the subject and forwarded them to the Senate and House.

A complaint that is growing on the part of shippers is that the railroads are applying their rates steadily, and on the other hand the Interstate Commerce Commission is doing nothing to check them except in scattered instances here and there, insufficiently to meet the shippers' necessities.

President Roosevelt, having definitely put himself out of consideration as a third-term possibility, is no longer in a position to swing the big stick over the heads of the House and the Senate. Disliking the President more thoroughly than ever, they are going to ignore his wishes as far as possible in the case of the railroads. Railroad interests are anxious to get the Sherman anti-trust law modified so as not to apply to the railroads, and they care to have coupled with that modification legislation that will strengthen the control of the Interstate Commerce Commission over them. La Follette is for strengthening that control. Senator Culberson, minority leader in the Senate, is expected to demand that the laws be strengthened. If the subject of modification of the Sherman law gets to the floor of either house, it will probably be the signal for a general outburst of the dissatisfaction felt with the present ineffective law. It will probably be enough other phases of railroad legislation in both houses on the President's plan for capitalization control, but there will be enough other phases of railroad legislation stirred up after the recess to give the Senate "family" and "Uncle Joe" a good many unhappy days and nights.

TAFT AND CORTELYOU
WARBLE GOOD WILL SONG

Peace reigns supreme this merry Christmas season.

It is the omnipotent factor in the highest of crises.

It is, therefore, eminently appropriate for the chronicler to set forth that, contrary to the general belief, Secretary Taft is not lugging around with him a large globe of Japanese prison to drop into Secretary Cortelyou's grip medicine.

Mr. Taft, who went to Cincinnati yesterday to qualify as an executor of his mother's estate, returns to this city tomorrow and will have numerous consultations regarding the future plans for his campaign for the Presidency.

Mr. Taft has set at naught all the rumors that he and Mr. Cortelyou are enemies, that Mr. Cortelyou has "conspired" to wrest the Presidential nomination from him, and that he or Cortelyou would have to get out of the Cabinet owing to the fact that the meeting room of that high assemblage does not contain a twenty-four-foot prize-fight ring.

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
INSTITUTE TO COST
MILLION PLANNED

Mrs. Eddy Proposes
Structure Where Poor
Can Be Treated.

CONCORD, N. H., Dec. 23.—Several trustees of the Christian Science Church are here today discussing with Mrs. Eddy a project to found a Christian Science Institute to cost not less than \$1,000,000. Plans thus far are so incomplete that it is not known where the institute is to be located or what its nature. It is believed, however, it will be a seminary for teaching Christian Science tenets to those unable to pay for instruction as it is now given by the leaders of the cult. Practically the only public information regarding the project is contained in today's issue of the "Christian Science Sentinel," which published the letter in which Mrs. Eddy first broached the idea to Archibald McLean, one of her trustees. Mrs. Eddy says:

"I desire to commence immediately to found a Christian Science Institute for the special benefit of the poor and the general good of mankind. The founding of and endowment of this institution will cost at least \$1,000,000."

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—A cablegram from Paris, stating that Mrs. Edna Dietrich, wife of Alfred E. Dietrich, was there with her mother, Mrs. M. E. Young, and was not with Harry S. Brenckley, the whip for Alfred G. Vanderbilt, with whom she was supposed to have eloped, was received in New York today.

The cablegram was sent by Mrs. Young to her sister, Miss J. B. Ahrens, at Mrs. Young's New York home, and was as follows:

"Party arrived safely in Paris. Edna is with us."

Miss Ahrens, after the receipt of the cablegram said that she was utterly at a loss, in view of its contents to explain how the story of Mrs. Dietrich's supposed elopement had arisen. She declared that Mrs. Dietrich had simply gone to Paris and that there was no one with her except Mrs. Young and the latter's son.

Emperor William
Finishes Buying
Christmas Gifts

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—The Kaiser finished his Christmas shopping today. His majesty doesn't "buck" the bargain counter throughs in person, but decides what he wants and then sends for dealers to come to Potsdam and show him samples. He delayed until the last moment, like most people, and had to do so much buying today that official business was practically "sidetracked."

"Though comparatively poor for a reigning monarch," the German ruler spends more on Christmas gifts than any foreigner in Europe. Not only does he give many very expensive presents, but an enormous number of them.

This year gifts consist largely of guns, saddles, riding crops, magnificent framed autograph portraits of himself, china, and jewelry. In addition to this he will take his usual walk Christmas morning through the palace, carrying several hundred marks in freshly minted coins for distribution to working people he meets.

Though he gives freely to every one connected with his household, the Kaiser will receive gifts from one outside the circle of immediate relatives.

ELECTROCUTED MAN
BURIED AT HOME

ROCKVILLE, Md., Dec. 23.—Funeral services were held here today for Howard West, alias Frank Earl, who was put to death in the electric chair at Columbus, Ohio, Friday morning. The interment was in Union Cemetery, where the West family has a lot. Only a few relatives and friends attended the funeral services and accompanied the body to the grave.

West was electrocuted for the murder of William Leggett, at Sidney, Ohio, last April. He had an accomplice who turned State's evidence and escaped with life imprisonment.

The young man's parents and grandparents are of one of the oldest families in Montgomery county and are connected with prominent men of this State. The electrocuted man went astray many years ago, having served terms in reformatories and penal institutions in the State. Some time before he left Maryland, it was said, he put his right hand between two cog wheels of a machine in order that he would be injured and that he would be compelled to work.

The body arrived in Rockville Saturday afternoon and lay in the undertaking establishment of William R. Pumphrey yesterday in order that friends might take a last look at it.

Miss Helena Cramer Stonestreet, daughter of the late Wilson T. Stonestreet, is dead at the home of her brother, Arthur Stonestreet, at Norfolk, aged fifty years. She had been an invalid for several years.

Marriage licenses have been issued to William J. Day and Miss Sallie Jane King, both of Damascus, Md.; Joshua A. Nicholson and Miss Eva May Ward, of Wesley Grove, Md.

GOVERNOR HUGHES BETTER.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Governor Hughes, who is confined to the executive mansion with the grip, is said to be considerably better. He will be able to return to his desk in two or three days.